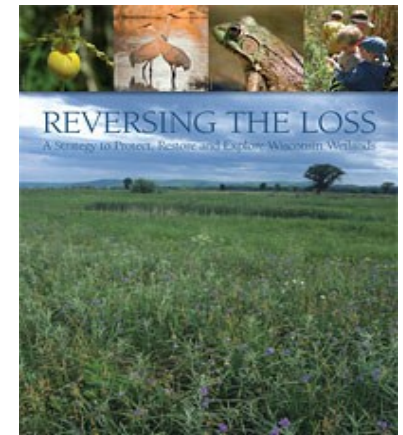


Reversing the Loss

2011 – 2012 Wisconsin Wetland Team Accomplishments



The Wisconsin Wetland Team identified key priorities and actions to work on in 2011 and 2012. The following pages show the accomplishments for the last two years. To learn more about the strategy visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wetlands/strategy.html>.

WI Wetland Team Priority

ONE: Monitor and assess the status of Wisconsin wetlands so decision makers have the best possible information on the extent, type, and health of our state's wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide. Assessment tools also provide the means to identify trends in wetland status.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 6 and 7 and EPA Core Element - Monitoring and Assessment.



- a. Participated in the National Wetland Condition Assessment and conducted Intensification Study along Lake Michigan.
- b. Prepared annual report for trackable wetland gains & losses.
- c. Updated the WI Wetland Inventory maps for six counties, digitized nine counties and incorporated into the National Wetland Inventory.
- d. Updated Wisconsin Rapid Assessment Methodology for wetland function and condition and trained staff in its use.
- e. Conducted wetland change analysis in Lake Michigan basin study area.

TWO: Develop a watershed approach for wetland restoration & protection using inventory and assessment data to better understand the roles wetlands play within watersheds and to help determine goals for wetland restoration and protection that address watershed needs.

This priority address *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals, 3, 4, 5 and 7 and EPA Core Elements - Regulatory, Voluntary Restoration & Protection, Monitoring and Assessment.



- a. Developed tools to apply watershed approaches within targeted watersheds including the Duck-Pensaukee and Upper St. Croix River for protecting and restoring wetlands.
- b. Incorporated watershed approach into Guidelines for Compensatory Wetland Mitigation draft.
- b. Completed mapping Potentially Restorable Wetlands (PRWs) across the state of Wisconsin.
- c. Incorporated PRW, Wetland Inventory and reed canary grass data into DNR integrated watershed reports.



WI Wetland Team Priority

THREE: Improve wetland regulatory approaches so they are straight-forward, fair and understandable to the public to ensure the state continues to maintain a strong and effective program that fully protects against wetland loss and degradation.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goal 4 and EPA Core Element - Regulatory.



- a. Implemented wetland permit program improvements.
- b. Secured funding to initiate Wetland Identification Program per 2009 Wisconsin Act 373.
- c. Developed federal wetland conservation general permit per 2009 Wisconsin Act 391.
- d. Developed guidance for 2012 Wisconsin Act 118 wetland regulatory program, updated application materials, web pages, and conducted staff training for implementing the Act.

FOUR: Increase wetland conservation on private lands by sustaining, promoting and delivering voluntary wetland restoration programs to private landowners, sharing expert knowledge on restoration techniques and by reducing barriers to improve state property tax for wetland conservation. Wetland restoration benefits extend well beyond private land boundaries to provide intrinsic functions and values for wildlife, water quality, and flood abatement.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goal 2 and EPA Core Element - Voluntary Restoration & Protection



- a. Developed outreach, marketing, and promotional strategies for conservation opportunities on private land.
- b. Implemented a streamlined federal and state permit process for wetland restoration through new wetland conservation general permit.
- c. Continued to implement Joint Venture Plan for restoration on private lands.

WI Wetland Team Accomplishments



WI Wetland Team Priority

FIVE: Prevent and control wetland invasive species by developing a strategic plan specific for wetland invasive species and utilizing successful control methods currently in practice.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 4, 5 and 7 and EPA Core Elements - Monitoring & Assessment and Voluntary Restoration & Protection.



- a. Re-evaluated invasive species regulations (NR 40), examined other species classification, and recommended revisions to the Invasive Species Council.
- b. Developed a comprehensive wetland invasive species strategy.
- c. Developed draft Wetland Invasive Species Best Management Practices.
 - a. Conducted *Phragmites* control in coastal wetlands of Door County.
 - b. Conducted volunteer-based purple loosestrife biological control program statewide.

SIX: Increase wetland ecosystem resiliency by utilizing the understanding of land use and climate change to strategically restore wetlands where they can buffer the impacts on the landscape and infrastructure of WI. Take management actions to ensure wetlands continue to provide adequate plant and wildlife habitat.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and EPA Core Element - Monitoring and Assessment.



- a. Worked with the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts and FWS Landscape Conservation Cooperative to understand and quantify wetland impacts to recommend adaptation strategies.
- b. Identified wetland restoration priorities in the Rock River Basin as an adaptation strategy to minimize climate change impacts from flooding.



WI Wetland Team Priority

SEVEN: Team up for wetland conservation by facilitating and engaging new and existing partners to take a more active role in wetland protection, restoration and exploration in Wisconsin.

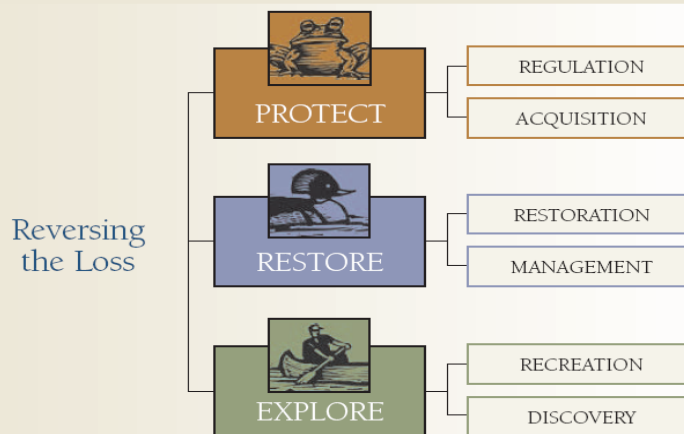
This priority addresses all eight *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals and all four EPA Core Elements.



WI Wetland Team Accomplishments

- Provided workshops for local governments on how they can increase wetland protection in their communities.
- Provided outreach to public and tribal land managers about the tools available for wetland stewardship.
- Promoted Wisconsin Wetland Gems project.
- Teamed with universities to further wetland research & education.
- Secured federal & state grant funding for wetland conservation.

Wisconsin's Wetland Strategy



Wisconsin Wetland Team

- * Ducks Unlimited
- * Natural Resources Foundation of WI
- * Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
- * Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- * The Nature Conservancy
- * University of Wisconsin—Extension
- * U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- * U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- * U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- * USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

- * WI Coastal Management Program
- * WI County Code Administrators
- * WI Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- * WI Department of Natural Resources
- * WI Department of Transportation
- * WI Waterfowl Association
- * WI Wetlands Association
- * WI Wildlife Federation
- * Joy Zedler, Restoration Ecologist